



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF UXBRIDGE

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH**

**FOR THE YEAR 1945**



W. TOWNSEND DOBSON, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)

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# Annual Report

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

### 1945

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
259, HIGH STREET,  
UXBRIDGE.

*July, 1946.*

### TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE UXBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1945 which, in accordance with the instructions contained in Ministry of Health Circulars, has been restricted to essential and urgent matters and is to be regarded as an Interim Report only.

I consider that the health of the Uxbridge Urban District is very satisfactory. The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1945 is 16·56 while the Rate for Uxbridge is 18·38 per thousand. The Death Rate for the Urban District is 10·4 per thousand while this year's Rate for England and Wales is 11·4.

I wish to express my appreciation of the excellent work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors and Clerical Staff, especially by Mr. V. E. Baughan, the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. TOWNSEND DOBSON,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## AREA.

Total area of District ... .. 10,237·363 acres.

## POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's Estimate of Population for the mid-year 1945 is 45,080.

## TOTAL BIRTHS.

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Live Legitimate</i>	<i>Live Illegitimate</i>	<i>Stillborn Legitimate</i>	<i>Stillborn Illegitimate</i>	<i>Total</i>
Males ...	392	35	10	2	439
Females...	353	32	4	1	390
Totals	745	67	14	3	829

## BIRTH RATE.

		1944		1945		Basis.
		No.	Birth Rate	No.	Birth Tate.	
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	827	18·358	745	16·526	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population
	Illegitimate	64	1·420	67	1·486	
	Total	891	19·778	812	18·012	
STILL BIRTHS	Legitimate	30	32·573	14	16·889	Per 1,000 total ( <i>i.e.</i> , live and still) births
	Illegitimate	—	—	3	3·618	
	Total	30	32·573	17	20·507	
TOTAL BIRTHS	Legitimate	857	19·023	759	16·836	Per 1,000 Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population
	Illegitimate	64	1·420	70	1·553	
	Total	921	20·443	829	18·389	

## DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

		Total Deaths (All Causes)		Death Rate (per 1,000) Registrar-General's estimated Resident Population.	
		1944	1945	1944	1945
Male	...	249	232	10·721	10·470
Female	...	234	240		
TOTAL	...	483	472		



## CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>						<i>No. of Deaths.</i>	
						1944.	1945.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	17	23
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	8	6
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Cancer of Buccal Cavity & Œsophagus (M) :							
Uterus (F)	...	...	...	...	...	14	8
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	7	12
Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	...	6	7
Cancer of All Other Sites	...	...	...	...	...	56	53
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	...	47	44
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	110	118
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	...	23	27
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	21	17
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	25	25
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	6	7
Diarrhœa under 2 Years	...	...	...	...	...	7	5
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	9	9
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	14	14
Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	4	12
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries,							
Infantile Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	13	14
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	7	3
Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	8	3
Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	...	28	14
All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	35	29

## DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

				<i>Death Rate</i>
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>per 1,000.</i>
In Total Live Births . . .	24	16	40	49.261
In Legitimate Live Births...	22	14	36	48.322
In Illegitimate Live Births...	2	2	4	59.702

The number of deaths of infants under one year has increased from 30 during 1944 to 40 during the year under review. The rate has increased from 33.670 to 49.261.

### DEATHS.

During the year 1942 there were five deaths from diphtheria ; since that year there have been no deaths from the disease, due to the very active immunisation campaign which has reduced the incidence of diphtheria to negligible proportions.

Tuberculosis deaths show an increase from 17 to 27 for all forms. While this increase is regretted, the figure of 17 was an exceptionally low one, and the number of deaths from tuberculosis during the year 1945 remains below that for previous years.

I am pleased to report that there were no deaths from puerperal sepsis or other maternal causes during the year under review.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

	1944.	1945.
Scarlet Fever... ..	106	91
Diphtheria ... ..	9	1
Enteric Fever ... ..	1	—
Dysentery ... ..	13	12
Erysipelas ... ..	34	13
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	59	57
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	3	3
Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	5
Polioencephalitis ... ..	1	1
Pneumonia ... ..	53	34
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary ... ..	76	67
Non-Pulmonary ... ..	17	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	4	9
Whooping Cough ... ..	101	50
Measles ... ..	375	304

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No disease showed epidemic prevalence during the year. There was a notable drop in the number of cases of whooping cough and the incidence of scarlet fever maintained a satisfactory low level. I am pleased to record a reduction in the number of tuberculosis notifications.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The number of immunisations completed in the year was 520, divided into two age groups, as follows :—

<i>Under five years.</i>	<i>5 years but under 15.</i>
464	56

This brings the total number of children immunised at some time during their life to :—

<i>Under 5 years.</i>	<i>5 years but under 15.</i>
3,440 ... 88.1%	4,904 ... 62.6%

a total of 8,344.

### TREATMENT OF SCABIES.

During the period of the war cases of scabies were treated by the Civil Defence staffs of First Aid Posts, and the bedding and personal clothing subjected to steam disinfection at the Council's Disinfector Station.

This proved to be most successful, but with the disbandment of the Civil Defence services in mid year the scheme had to be discontinued. Prior to the closure of the First Aid Posts 131 cases had received treatment during 1945. In all, during the period the scheme was in operation, 1,396 cases underwent treatment.

Treatment of scabies reverted to private practitioners, with the facilities at the Council's Disinfector Station available if required. I am, however, pleased to report that since the end of 1945 the Board of the Joint Isolation Hospital have started a Clinic for treatment of scabies, with the help of the local British Red Cross and St. John organisations: this Clinic is held every Wednesday afternoon.

# REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES.

The following summary shows the inspections and other duties carried out by the Inspectorate during the year 1945, when a total of 4,903 visits were made.

Houses inspected under Housing Act	...	...	57
Premises visited under Public Health Acts...	...	...	649
Re-visits to houses and other premises	...	...	885
Visits to works in progress	...	...	194
Unclassified visits	...	...	525
Visits to factories	...	...	74
„ outworkers' premises	...	...	7
„ bakehouses	...	...	13
„ restaurants and tearooms	...	...	44
„ butchers' shops and slaughterhouses	...	...	47
„ fish shops	...	...	28
„ grocers' shops and wholesale depots	...	...	84
„ dairies and milk shops	...	...	56
„ cowsheds	...	...	78
„ piggeries	...	...	56
„ manufacturers and purveyors of ice cream	...	...	7
„ canal boats	...	...	16
„ gypsy encampments and caravans	...	...	82
„ common lodging houses	...	...	4
„ school premises	...	...	33
Visits re unsound food	...	...	230
„ nuisances from animals	...	...	27
„ water supply	...	...	131
„ drainage and cesspools	...	...	210
„ ponds and ditches	...	...	15
„ rats and mice	...	...	175
„ insect pests	...	...	195
„ infectious diseases	...	...	207
„ scabies	...	...	53
„ alleged overcrowding	...	...	33
„ Council houses	...	...	82
„ permitted numbers	...	...	228
Council houses inspected	...	...	74
Smoke observations	...	...	3
Water samples taken	...	...	98
Milk samples taken	...	...	69
Interviews	...	...	134



## COMPLAINTS.

Four hundred and two complaints were received relating to the following matters :—

Defective drains and sanitary fittings ...	77
Defective water storage tanks and fittings	46
Insanitary condition of house ... ..	8
Nuisance from general defects ... ..	11
Defective chimneys and fireplaces ...	18
„ walls and ceilings ... ..	14
„ floors ... ..	6
Nuisance from dampness ... ..	35
Verminous premises ... ..	11
Nuisance from keeping animals ... ..	14
Accumulation of refuse or manure ...	21
Overcrowding ... ..	11
Nuisance from gypsies ... ..	9
Nuisance from rats or mice ... ..	80
Miscellaneous nuisances ... ..	41

Prompt investigation was made of complaints, and appropriate action taken where necessary.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Wholesale depots, food shops, stalls, slaughterhouses and other premises where food is prepared, stored or sold, have been frequently visited and the foodstuffs examined; the condition of the various premises has been found generally satisfactory.

The total amount of unsound food surrendered for destruction during the year was 9 tons 4 cwt. 25 lbs., which was dealt with in accordance with the instructions of the Salvage Department of the Ministry of Food.

During the year 80 pigs were slaughtered under licence of the Ministry of Food. One was found to be suffering from swine fever and the carcase and organs destroyed as being unfit for human consumption, 3 heads were found to be tubercular and similarly destroyed.

There is continued close co-operation between the Public Health Department and the Local and Divisional Offices of the Ministry of Food.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The District has a piped supply from two undertakings, namely that of the Rickmanworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Co. and the Council's own undertaking. The total supply from the two undertakings has always been adequate for the requirements of the District. During the year routine samples were taken from the supplies of both undertakings.

In November a sample taken from the deep bore of the Council's undertaking was found to be unsatisfactory. Further samples were taken immediately and these also indicated the presence of pollution. Samples taken from the service mains at the same time as the foregoing were in all cases found to be satisfactory, showing that the chlorination system was effective. Immediately confirmation of the pollution shown in the first sample was received arrangements were made for the Uxbridge undertaking to discontinue the supply of water forthwith. It was possible for this to be effected without disorganising the water supply of the town by obtaining an alternative supply from the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Co.

Extensive investigations were undertaken to determine the source of pollution. The bores, headings and adits were examined for the possible entry of polluted water and many samples were taken at various points of the chalk face. In addition, samples were taken from deep and shallow wells in private ownership within a radius of approximately one mile of the Council's waterworks. One deep well was found to be polluted: this was heavily chlorinated and subsequently pumped to waste; a strong salt solution was pumped into the well but a series of chloride tests carried out in the headings at the waterworks failed to reveal any connection. A possible source of contamination was thought to be the drainage system within the curtilage of the waterworks, which on examination was found to be defective in sections, and the whole system was reconstructed.

On completion of this work and the conclusion of all possible investigations the bores and headings were heavily chlorinated and allowed to stand for twenty-four hours; the water was then pumped to waste for several days. Samples were then taken from the bores and the water was found to have recovered its former high standard of purity, being virtually sterile.

After having been discontinued for a period of twenty-one days the supply to the public was resumed, and samples of raw water

and the chlorinated mains supply were taken daily. It should be emphasised that at no time during the short period between the detection of pollution in the raw water and the cessation of supply to the public was there any evidence of a similar condition in the chlorinated water in the Council's mains.

Prior to November, seven samples of raw water and nine of chlorinated water had been taken during the year from the bores and mains of the Council's undertaking : all of these samples proved satisfactory. In the course of investigating the possible source of pollution thirty-two samples of raw water and thirteen of chlorinated water were taken.

Samples of raw and treated water continue to be taken at frequent intervals, and up to the time of writing this report, *i.e.* July, 1946, all samples show the water to be of a high degree of bacterial purity.

Eighteen samples of water taken from the mains of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Co. during the year were found to be consistently of a high standard of purity.

The number of dwelling houses and the population supplied from public mains are estimated to be as follows:—

	<i>Number of dwelling houses.</i>	<i>Population.</i>
Direct to the house ...	12,430	44,479
By means of stand-pipes	131	468

## **MILK SUPPLY.**

### *(a) Premises and Purveyors.*

The following table shows the number of registered premises and purveyors within the District :—

Cowkeepers ... ..	21
Retail purveyors with premises in the District	9
Retail purveyors from other Districts ... ..	2

Of the 21 cowkeepers three are licensed by the Middlesex County Council to produce Tuberculin Tested milk and five licensed to produce Accredited milk.

Fifteen principal and three supplementary licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders for the sale of graded milks.



(b) *Bacteriological Examination.*

The following table shows the number of samples of milk taken for bacteriological and other special examination, and the results of such examination :—

<i>Class of Milk.</i>	<i>Number of samples.</i>	<i>Satisfactory.</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Tuberculin Tested ... ..	4	2	2
Accredited ... ..	25	6	19
Pasteurised ... ..	4	2	2
Pasteurised ... .. (Milk in Schools Scheme)	26	17	9
Special Examinations.			
Bacteriological and Biological (for abortus lesions)	5	3	2
Bacteriological and Biological (for tubercle bacilli)	5	3	2*
	—	—	—
	69	33	36
	—	—	—

\*These samples did not show evidence of tubercle bacilli, but were *Bacillus Coli* positive.

It will be observed that of the total number of samples taken during the year approximately half were found to be unsatisfactory. It should be explained that 53% of the unsatisfactory samples occurred in respect of Accredited milk. In 19 instances samples of Accredited milk were found to contain *Bacillus Coli* in some degree, and to that extent were regarded as not being in all respects satisfactory. These unsatisfactory results occurred during July, August and September and were reported to the County Milk Production Officer of the Middlesex War Agricultural Executive Committee. The presence of *Bacillus Coli* is of no direct pathological significance, but is indicative of the presence of organisms of a harmful character.

Twenty-six samples of milk supplied under the Milk in Schools Scheme were examined for efficient pasteurisation and bacterial purity. All samples passed the phosphatase test but 9 were found to contain *Bacillus Coli*. It was considered that the presence of *Bacillus Coli* in milk which had been properly pasteurised suggested the use of bottles not fully sterilised. The matter was pursued with the three dairies concerned, whose premises are situated outside the District, and improvements were effected in the bottle-washing arrangements. In one instance the dairyman arranged for the bottle-washing and filling processes to be carried out for him at other dairy premises.

As in previous years all samples of milk taken were submitted to the Gerber test in the laboratory of the Public Health Department; all samples were found to comply with the requirements of the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939.



## **DISINFECTION.**

One hundred and six disinfections were carried out following the occurrence of infectious disease.

## **DISINFESTATION.**

During the year nineteen disinfestations were carried out at bug-infested Council houses, fire-watching premises and private dwellings.

## **RODENT CONTROL.**

Throughout the year the Rodent Control Section of the Public Health Department continued to operate, and works of disinfestation were carried out at factories, wholesale food depots, business premises and private dwelling houses. Works were also carried out at the Council's refuse tips, depots and premises.

## **PATHOLOGICAL WORK.**

All samples (milk, water, food, sputa, swabs, etc.) were submitted to Dr. R. G. McGowan, Hampstead Laboratory, Cottage Hospital, Uxbridge.

